PATSUK CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:

_____ Date: _____

John Metcalfe
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

_____ Date: _____

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
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Patsuk Creek Ecological Reserve
Purpose Statement

Patsuk Creek Ecological Reserve is located 38 km north - northwest of the town of Mackenzie. The ecological reserve, 554 ha in size, protects excellent examples of paper birch forest and a rich assemblage of associated plants.

The ecological reserve is situated on moderate to steep mountain slopes bordering Patsuk Creek, which flows from the Misinchinka Range into Parsnip Reach of Williston Lake.

The main feature of the ecological reserve is stands of paper birch, which have limited distribution in the province. The stands appear to be 60 - 80 years old, and have originated after a fire.

One rare plant, the mountain bladder fern (*Cystopteris montana*), is associated with blue clay soils in the reserve.

While the fauna has not been surveyed, moose and bear are known to frequent the area. Arctic grayling occur in Patsuk Creek.

Primary Role
The primary role of Patsuk Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect excellent examples of paper birch forest and a rich assemblage of associated plants.

Known Management Issues	Response
Forest harvesting on adjacent lands	Ensure there is no trespasses.
Lack of an ecological reserve warden	Attempt to recruit an ecological reserve warden.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection — Contributes minimally to the representation of the Northern Hart Ranges Ecosection (NHR) – 7.42% of this ecosection is protected provincially, 1.01% of which is protected in this ecological reserve. Also makes a very minor contribution to the representation of the Misinchinka Ranges (MIR) Ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant — Minor representation of: SBS wk2 – 0.51% of overall provincial protection. SBS mk2 - 0.59% of overall provincial protection. ESSF wk2 - 0.27% of overall provincial protection.

Special Feature — X Relatively unusual paper birch stands

Rare/Endangered Values — X rare plant: the mountain bladder fern (*Cystopteris montana*)
Arctic Grayling (provincial red list)

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry — X Nature appreciation opportunities
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities — X Ecology of paper birch stands; forest succession.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation — Unknown

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations — X 2215' elevation flood reserve of Williston Lake Reservoir included in the ecological reserve

Relationship to Other PAs — X One of 148 ecological reserves established to protect

		natural ecosystems and phenomena for research and education purposes across the province.
Co-operative Management Arrangements		
Partnerships		Ecological Reserve Warden required
Vulnerability	X	The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. Two stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve: fire suppression was rated as highly significant; forest harvesting activity was rated with medium significance.
Relationship to Other Strategies		

Area: 554 hectares

Date of establishment: February 10, 1978.